

REMARKS

These remarks and the accompanying amendments are responsive to the Office Action dated March 8, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the "Office Action"). At the time of the last examination, Claims 1-32 are pending, though Claims 1-20 were withdrawn from consideration. This amendment formally cancels Claims 1-20 since they are withdrawn from consideration. Furthermore, by this amendment, Claim 33 is added. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 21-33 will be pending. Of these claims, the Office Action allowed Claims 26-32. Of the remaining claims, Claims 21, 22 and 24 are independent.

As a preliminary matter, Section 2 of the Office Action objected to the specification as being too lengthy. This amendment includes a replacement Abstract which conforms with the length requirement for the Abstract.

As a further preliminary matter, Section 5 of the Office Action indicated that Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the rejected base claim from which Claim 22 directly depends. Claim 22 has been so amended herein. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 is now in allowable form. New claim 33 depends from Claim 22, and is therefore also allowable.

Thus, the only remaining independent claims that are subject to a rejection are Claims 21 and 24, each having one dependent Claim 23 and 25, respectively.

Section 5 of the Office Action rejects Claims 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States patent number 5,673,260 issued to Umeda, et al. (the patent hereinafter referred to as "Umeda") in view of United States patent number 6,167,037 issued to Higuchi, et al. (the patent hereinafter referred to as "Higuchi").

Independent Claim 21 (as amended) recites "capturing, in a handover-source base station, phase difference information between a long period spreading code of a common control channel from said handover-source base station and a long period spreading code of a common control channel from a handover-destination base station, the phase difference information being calculated by at least one mobile station that is communicating with said handover-source base station" and "storing, in said handover-source base station and/or its control station, the captured phase difference information", and "transmitting the stored phase difference information to a mobile station.

Regarding Umeda, it seems that the Office Action equates "Ld" at column 23, line 63 of Umeda with the recited "phase difference information". However, this "Ld" is transmitted from the handover-source base station to the handover-target (destination) base station, and used in the handover-target base station (see Umeda, column 24, lines 12-50). It is not transmitted to a mobile station. Therefore, Umeda does disclose the feature recited in Claim 21 (as amended) of "transmitting the stored phase difference information to a mobile station".

Regarding Higuchi, it seems that the Office Action equates the "phase differences" (at column 20, line 27 of Higuchi) which is stored in the memory 84 with the "phase difference information" recited in Claim 21. However, these "phase differences" are not transmitted to other stations. Therefore, Higuchi also does not disclose the feature Claim 21 of "transmitting the stored phase difference information to a mobile station".

Therefore, even if Umeda and Higuchi are combined (which combination is not conceded to be appropriate), Claim 21 is not unpatentable over Umeda in view of Higuchi. Claim 23 depends from Claim 21, and is thus also not unpatentable over Umeda in view of Higuchi.

Regarding independent Claim 24, Claim 24 (as amended) recites "[a] cell search method of a mobile station" that "receiv[es], from a base station, phase difference information between a long period spreading code of a common control channel of said base station and a long period spreading code of a common control channel of a neighboring base station of said base station", and "carri[es] out cell search in accordance with the received phase difference information". In this way, the mobile station receives phase difference information from a base station, and therefore the mobile station can obtain phase difference information other than one that is calculated by the mobile station itself.

Regarding the above-mentioned "Ld" of Umeda, this "Ld" is not transmitted from a base station to a mobile station. That is, a mobile station does not receive "Ld" from a base station. Regarding the above-mentioned "phase differences" of Higuchi, these "phase differences" are also not transmitted from a base station to a mobile station. That is, a mobile station does not receive "phase differences" from a base station.

Thus, the Claim 24 is not unpatentable over Umeda in view of Higuchi either singly or in combination, since neither reference teaches the recited feature of Claim 24 of receiving phase difference information from a base station. Claim 25, which depends from Claim 24, is likewise not unpatentable.

Accordingly, favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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